

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 18, 2002

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 7, 2002

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 516**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Cedillo**

February 21, 2001

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An act *to add Section 101.11 to the Streets and Highways Code*, relating to redevelopment.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 516, as amended, Cedillo. Redevelopment: Byzantine-Latino Quarter.

Existing law permits the Department of Parks and Recreation to contract or cooperate with public or private agencies for suitable plaques, markers, and directional signs at the site of, or on the approaches to, registered historical landmarks or points of historical interest, including signs on highways and roads.

This bill would make findings and declarations regarding ~~the need to designate~~ *designation of* the historic area of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter within the City of Los Angeles by the placement of appropriate highway signs and markers for that purpose. *The bill would require the Department of Transportation, through the erection of highway signs and appropriate markers to provide recognition of the historical importance of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter within the City of Los Angeles.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:
- 3 (a) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter is located at the  
4 southwestern border of the neighborhood currently known as the  
5 Pico-Union area. As designated by the Los Angeles Neighborhood  
6 Initiative, the boundaries for the Byzantine-Latino Quarter  
7 include the following: Olympic Boulevard on the north; Venice  
8 Street on the south; 11th Street and Alvarado Boulevard on the  
9 east; and Normandie Avenue on the west.
- 10 (b) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter represents one of the more  
11 diverse and historic districts within the Los Angeles area, serving  
12 as a major contributor to the preservation of cultural understanding  
13 and community heritage.
- 14 (c) The Pico-Union area was initially established as a fledgling  
15 suburb of Los Angeles when downtown Los Angeles was the  
16 primary commercial center in the early days of the twentieth  
17 century. Because of its physical proximity to downtown Los  
18 Angeles, the Pico-Union area has served as an attractive  
19 destination point for new immigrants. Early residents of the area  
20 included middle- and upper-income Norwegians, Swedes, Welsh,  
21 and Russian Jews. The changing demographics of the various  
22 subcommunity populations have revitalized the growth and  
23 development of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter.
- 24 (d) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter illustrates a more historic  
25 residential and commercial Los Angeles district. Officially  
26 designated as the Byzantine-Latino Quarter by the City of Los  
27 Angeles, this renewed community creates unique cultural  
28 constructs by joining Hellenic ideals and Latin American  
29 traditions, further promoting a vibrant sense of community.  
30 Sincere community efforts are currently developing the  
31 Byzantine-Latino Quarter into a cultural, ethnic, and specialty  
32 business zone that highlights the great world cultures represented  
33 by the Greek Byzantine as well as Latino populations. This critical  
34 endeavor in community building redefines and reinforces that  
35 which continues to attract new residents to the area.



(e) The Byzantine-Latino Quarter has witnessed a significant rise in the population of foreign-born residents during the twentieth century, attributing to the increasing representation of the Latino population. In general, networks of kin and compadres (those from the same towns and regions) have facilitated the steady influx of Central Americans to the Pico-Union area, promoting easier transitions for these new immigrants. Consequently, numerous community organizations and commercial establishments have responded to this shifting dynamic by tailoring crucial programs and services to the Spanish-speaking population. Census records also indicate the rising numbers of other ethnic minority populations like Asian Pacific Islanders and African-Americans, providing further testament to the diverse contributions of an evolving community.

(f) Being that the Byzantine-Latino Quarter successfully maintains the appeal of its historic cultural elements against its ever-changing demographic profile, this unique area perseveres in drawing new residents, both immigrant and nonimmigrant. The history of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter intimates a rich and enduring tapestry, woven with the threads of many remarkable lives, cultures, and events.

~~(g) There is a need to designate the Byzantine-Latino Quarter~~  
 (g) *The Byzantine-Latino Quarter shall be designated* as an officially recognized historic area through the placement of highway signs and other appropriate markers.

~~SEC. 2. The Department of Transportation shall erect highway signs and other appropriate markers to designate the Byzantine-Latino Quarter within the City of Los Angeles as an officially recognized historic area~~

SEC. 2. *Section 101.11 is added to the Streets and Highways Code, to read:*

101.11. *The Department of Transportation shall, through the erection of highway signs and appropriate markers, provide recognition of the historical importance of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter in the City of Los Angeles. Local designation efforts and other similar actions shall may complement this project.*